

Statement of James M. Minter.

On the 16th day of January 1903 Ross Coe and I started out from my camp about 9 O'clock^{a.m.} to hunt for a horse. It was snowing when we started. We had gone about two miles when we heard the report of a firearm. The atmosphere was very dense and it was hard to locate the sound exactly so we kept on in the same direction that we were going and that we thought the sound came from. We had gone on about 150 yards when we saw two men down in a canyon.

I was at this time about 25 or 30 yards from them (Coe was in the rear of me about 40 yards) and recognized one to be David Billescas.

They were on their horses and and started off in a run when they sighted us. Billescas's accomplice didn't look back and on this account I failed to recognize him.

By this time it had quit snowing and their trail was easily distinguished. In a thick cluster of bushes within a few feet of where they started from we found a red bald face heifer, about 18 months or two years old, tied to a tree and

Billescas Case

— Statement of J. M. Minter continued —
upon examination found it to
be branded V 4 V and to be shot just
above the left eye. From the looks
of the wound it must have been
shot with a small caliber pistol.

He left it tied and it was de-
cided that Lee should inform
A. Harry Aguayo who was an em-
ployee of Mr. James E. Lee, and I
to remain nearby to watch the
heifer until he and Aguayo would
return. When Aguayo and Lee
arrived upon examining the heifer
closely Aguayo turned it loose
and started on the trail of
Billescas and his accomplice.

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It was at this time about 25 on 30 yards from them (Coe was in the rear of me about 40 yards) and recognized one to be Davie Billescas. They were on their horses and started off in a run when they sighted us. Billescase's accomplice didn't look back and on this account I failed to recognize him. By this time it had quit snowing and their trail was easily distinguished. In a thick cluster of bushes within a few feet of where they started from we found a red bald face heifer, about 18 months or two years old, tied to a tree and upon examination found it to be branded V4V and to be shot just above the left eye. From the looks of the wound it must have been shot with a small caliber pistol.

We left it tied and it was decided that Coe should inform A. Harry Aguayo who was an employee of Mr. James E. Cree, and I to remain nearby to watch the heifer until he and Aguayo and Coe arrived upon examining the heifer closely Aguayo turned it loose and started on the trail of Billescas and his accomplice.

JM Minter